

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe

*Brings You News
From Sacramento*



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Safeguarding against future fire disasters

Last year's wildfires have caused elected officials and firefighters to take a more critical look at how we can better protect our constituents and their property from such a disaster in the future. As a member of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission, I am looking into policy changes that will help prevent and protect Californians from fire disasters. Several of my fire-related bills have recently been introduced in the legislature. They are:

AB 224 – Shake roof restriction

AB 1510 - Property Tax Relief; would reimburse seven counties that suffered from recent natural disasters from property tax losses that will result from property re-assessment by each county.

AB 1612 – Helicopter Fire Protection

AB 2199 – Insurance, time to rebuild; This bill would provide property owners with additional time on their insurance policy to repair, rebuild or replace damaged or destroyed property and allow policy holders to consider rebuilding at a different location if they choose.

If you'd like to read the text of any of these bills, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and search by bill number or author.

Carolyn Chase named Woman of the Year

Last week at the State Capitol I had the honor of recognizing Carolyn Chase as the 76th Assembly District's "Woman of the Year." The ceremony was held in Sacramento to recognize an exemplary California woman from each Assembly district in the state.

Carolyn is an inspirational leader with a long history of accomplishments. She is a dedicated environmentalist who has proven leadership with the Sierra Club, Earth Day, and comprehensive land-use planning. She works tirelessly to educate people on how they can live in a more environmentally friendly manner. I am pleased to pay tribute to such a talented and dedicated constituent.

The ceremony for "Woman of the Year" was the centerpiece of a daylong celebration with all the legislators and each of their Women of the Year selections. Neither state nor legislative funds are used to pay for the activities. If you have a suggestion for next year's nominee, please let me know.

Kehoe named Legislator of the Year by Cal. Federation of Teachers

I'm honored to report that I have been named Legislator of the Year by the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), which represents teachers and school employees from early childhood education through university level.

This acknowledgment is especially important to me because I support the California Federation of Teachers' mission to empower and further the objectives of teachers, school administrators, and school staff – all for the ultimate goal of improving California's education system. Especially during these times of fiscal uncertainty, it is important to re-establish education as a top priority in California.

At their 62nd Annual Educators' Convention last weekend, CFT announced that I was chosen for the honor based on my support of education and education professionals.

For more information on the California Federation of Teachers, go to www.cft.org.



Assemblymember Kehoe with San Diego City School students at one of her annual essay contest assemblies.

California State Auditor Reports

The Bureau of State Audits serves as the citizens' and government watchdog to ensure the effective and efficient administration and management of public funds and programs. It is their job to help make sure that California government stays one step ahead. As the State's external auditor, they provide independent, nonpartisan, accurate, and timely assessments of California government's financial and operational activities in compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Recently published reports include:

Investigations of Improper Activities by State Employees

County Emergency Medical Services Funds:

Despite their efforts to properly administer the funds, some counties have yet to reach full compliance with state laws.

California Department of Corrections

Its plans to build a new condemned-inmate complex at San Quentin are proceeding, but its analysis of alternative locations and costs was incomplete.

California's Workers' Compensation Program

Changes to the Medical Payment System should produce savings although uncertainty about new regulations and data limitations prevent more comprehensive analysis.

To access their website, go to

<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa/index.html>



State of California Website offers access to state programs

The state of California has a website that offers information on countless state-related programs and services. Go to www.ca.gov to access many helpful services, including:

- DMV appointments
- File your income taxes online
- Register for the National Do Not Call Registry
- State Budget Information
- State Phone Directory
- Governor Schwarzenegger's webpage

Go to www.ca.gov for information on these topics, and help contacting state departments, boards and commissions.

Brochures Available

My office provides a variety of free brochures that can give you information on everything from state parks and energy saving tips to how to lobby the State Legislature. I also have copies of the California State Constitution. If you are interested in receiving any of these brochures, please email me at Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov.

Brochures available:

- California State Parks in San Diego County
- Golden State ScholarShare program
- Important Information Regarding your Privacy
- California State Map, CHP
- Summer Driving Tips
- Bicycle Safety
- Legislative Activity Book for kids
- Senior Resources Guide
- Tenants' Rights Guidebook
- Neighborhood Watch

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